

Advice note for a pre-registration inspection of an academy/free school/studio school/university technical college (UTC)

School name	Collective Spirit
DfE registration number	353/
Unique reference number (URN)	1432
Inspection number	422328
Inspection dates	1 August 2013
Reporting inspector	Lubna Aziz

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Information about the inspection

This inspection was conducted by Ofsted at the request of the registration authority for independent schools. It was carried out under section 99 of the Education and Skills Act 2008.¹

Context of the school

Collective Spirit is a free school and it is located in the South Chadderton area of Oldham, Manchester. The school is part of the Collective Spirit Trust and aims to cater for those of all faiths and no faith. The school building was formerly used as a local secondary school and the school now occupies part of this building. The school has plans to refurbish one block of the building. This will accommodate 60 pupils in three Year 7 form groups from 4 September 2013. The school is set to open its doors for pupils from all communities and faiths, including those with a statement of special educational needs. At present, 54 pupils have been registered for enrolment, five of whom have statements of special educational needs. The school has applied to be registered for 300 boys and girls in the age range 11 to 16 years (adjusted during this visit to 60 pupils to enrol in September 2013, with the school seeking to raise its numbers over the next five years to reach its maximum of 300). The school aims to: 'be a high achieving 'faith sensitive' small secondary school meeting the needs of our children and families'.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The school is likely to meet all of the regulatory requirements, although implementation cannot be seen as the school is not operating. The school has an appropriate policy and scheme of work in place for personal, social and health education (PSHE). This will also cover aspects of citizenship. The themes taught in PSHE will be embedded into other subjects of the curriculum such as English and mathematics. The school has written a suitable behaviour policy with appropriate rewards and sanctions. Pupils will be taught to distinguish between right and wrong and develop an awareness of civil and criminal law. Pupils' self-confidence and self-esteem will be raised through the teaching of 'collaboration themes' and by involving pupils in all aspects of school life. This includes participating in a pupils' parliament through different sub-committees such as a staff recruitment panel, learning monitoring team and curriculum committee. This will help pupils to understand the workings of democracy and, alongside the citizenship curriculum, provide a practical insight into the role of British public institutions such as our parliament. Pupils will take part in local community projects for example, making areas of wasteland into attractive places. They will also be involved in raising funds for charities at national

¹ www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99

and international levels. The school will teach its pupils about other religions and cultures through the teaching of religious studies and PSHE themes. They will gain an appreciation of different faiths, for example by learning about their various festivals. Visitors from different faiths will be invited to give a talk during assembly time and pupils will have opportunities to visit various places of worship. The school has a clear teaching and learning policy which will ensure that pupils are given balanced political views in lessons and in other activities.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet the majority of the regulations for welfare, health and safety. The school has an appropriate safeguarding policy that clearly describes signs and symptoms of abuse and steps to take in the event of allegations against members of staff, including the Principal. The school has booked safeguarding training for the whole staff, including for the designated officer for safeguarding at the appropriate level, before it opens in September, so that requirements are likely to be met. A suitable behaviour policy is in place with clear rewards and sanctions. There are appropriate policies on anti-bullying and first aid. Appointed members of staff will be attending first aid training and a date has been confirmed for them to attend this training prior to the opening of the school. The school yet has to write a health and safety policy and to carry out the required risk assessments for fire and for the premises, and to acquire a report from the fire authority. The policy, risk assessments and report are likely to be completed as soon as the refurbishment work on the building is finished. The school will use electronic attendance and admission registers and a suitable format for these is in place. The school has devised a three-year accessibility improvement plan based on the refurbished premises.

In order to meet the requirements in full, the college should:

- comply with health and safety laws by producing a written health and safety policy and a risk assessment for the premises (paragraph 11)
- ensure that it has a satisfactory level of fire safety and can demonstrate compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (paragraph 13).

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

All regulations are likely to be met in this standard. The school has compiled a suitable single central register. This contains all of the required checks on the suitability of staff and governors. The school is aware of its responsibility to obtain all the required checks in the case of supply staff if the need arises. The school is also aware of its obligation to inform the Disclosure and Barring Service in regard to any person who is not suitable to work with children. The school has no immediate intention of employing supply staff, but is aware of the necessary checks to be made should it do so in future.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations. The school has secured part of an old secondary school building and suitable plans are in place to refurbish the premises. The first phase of the building work will be completed by 30 August 2013 ready for use from 4 September 2013 for the first group of 60 pupils in Year 7. The second phase of refurbishment will be completed for September 2014. The refurbishment plan will be managed by the Education Funding Agency. The premises were inspected and discussions were held with the principal, architect and a representative of the Education Funding Agency on behalf of the Department. The Department will wish to continue to monitor progress directly with the agency.

On completion of the first phase of development, the school will have sufficient classrooms with appropriate internal lighting and acoustic arrangements in place. There are appropriate toilets and washroom facilities with a regulated hot water supply and a suitable medical room. There is a suitably labelled drinking water facility and the external lighting is satisfactory. The school also benefits from a sports hall with changing and showering facilities and a safe outside hard-surfaced play area.

Provision of information

The provision is likely to meet all the regulations.

Manner in which complaints are to be handled

The provision is likely to meet meet all the regulations.

Recommendation to the Department for Education

Registration

- **YES. The school can be registered and allowed to open on receipt by DfE of evidence of improvement in relation to the matters outlined above.**

Recommended number of day pupils: 60 (rising to 300 over five years)

Recommended number of boarders: 0

Recommended age range: 11-12 years

Recommended gender of pupils: mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.

Note: The Department should obtain confirmation from the school before it opens that a written health and safety policy, planned fire authority report and the fire and

premises risk assessments are in place and that the first phase of building work is satisfactorily completed.